BUILDING CITIZENS AND LIFELONG CONNECTIONS

2014-2015 APPLICATION

THE HOWARD H. BAKER JR. CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

BAKER CENTER LIVING AND LEARNING COMMUNITY

OVERVIEW

Incoming freshmen seeking a community that lives together, takes courses together, and learns through experience about how civic engagement and public policy impact life in the real world, are invited to apply for the Baker Center Living and Learning Community.

The Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy equips policy makers, citizens, scholars and students with the information and skills necessary to work effectively within our political system for a better community. Since 2003 the Baker Center has been engaging young people in the political process while challenging them to deepen their understanding of what it means to be a citizen.

Active citizenship is critically important to the preservation of American ideals. Recognizing this, the Baker Center seeks to engage young people in activities that develop students’ knowledge of democracy, sense of social and political responsibility and ability to have an impact on a local, national and global scale.

Former BCLLC students are leaders...

Carrie Macon (2011): Baker Scholar; Teach for America, teacher in Davidson County schools

Elizabeth Williams (2012): Baker Scholar, College Scholar, interned at University of Pennsylvania in community engagement work; studied education policy in South Africa; attends graduate school at Columbia University on full scholarship

RJ Lusk (2013): Baker Scholar, earned Boren scholarship to study for 18 months in China

Eric Dixon (2013): Baker Scholar; created UT student organization – Community Partnership Service Corp; campaigned for SGA Vice President; interned at the University of Pennsylvania in community engagement work; Truman Scholar finalist 2013

Blair Kuykendall (2013): Baker Scholar; Haslam Scholar; Editor – Daily Beacon; attends Georgetown Law School

Abigail McKamey (2014): Baker Scholar; College Scholar; UT Student Alumni Ambassador; Teach for America

Lisa Dicker (2014): Baker Scholar; earned a US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to study in China; interned at the University of Pennsylvania in community engagement

Frequently Asked Questions

• What is the Baker Center Living Learning Community? The Baker Center Living and Learning Community
(BCLLC) provides an opportunity for students to integrate their interests in politics, civic engagement, research, community service, and public policy into their freshman year on-campus living experience. It also allows them to form close relationships with students of similar interests. Named for former Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., the Baker Center Living and Learning Community is a program of UT’s Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy.

- **What is a Living and Learning Community?** A living and learning community (LLC) is a group of students with similar interests who live together on campus, attend a class together each semester, share ideas and form close relationships during their freshman year. The purpose of a learning community is to integrate curricular and co-curricular experiences that complement and extend learning beyond the classroom. In addition, LLCs help freshmen develop a network of support that promotes student success, teamwork skills and intellectual engagement.

- **What is the Baker Center?** The Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy is a nonpartisan institute at the University of Tennessee devoted to education and scholarship concerning leadership and governance and public policy, particularly in the areas of global security and energy and the environment. Through classes, public lectures, research, and outreach programs, the center aims to provide the information and skill development necessary to work effectively within our political system and to serve our local, state, national, and global communities.

- **Where will I live?** Members of the BCLLC live in Morrill Hall. Morrill Hall is located adjacent to Presidential Courtyard and houses seven living and learning communities at UT. BCLLC members will share floors in Morrill Hall with other learning communities, but all residents are members of learning communities.

- **Do I have to be a Political Science major?** No, students from any major are welcome, including those in an Exploratory track. The 2013-2014 BCLLC members boasted a wide variety of majors including Biochemistry, Political Science, Deaf Education, Economics, Philosophy, Women’s Studies, Business, and Global Studies.

- **What classes will I take? WE do REQUIRE courses.** In the fall semester BCLLC members will take BCPP 101 (Introduction to Public Policy). In this three credit-hour course students will explore the basic characteristics of the public policy making system and process, as well as a set of current policy problems. This course satisfies the Social Science General Education requirement. In the spring semester, BCLLC members will take BCPP 102 (Freshman Seminar). This one credit-hour course is designed to enrich students’ experience through exposure to guest lecturers, exploration of career opportunities, and participation in co-curricular activities related to the field of public policy. Both the BCPP 101 and 102 will include roundtables which allow students to explore current issues and discuss them, guest lecturers who are prominent in the field of public policy, and a semester-long policy project. During the spring semester, BCLLC members will also be given a choice between several public policy oriented three-hour courses to enroll in. The Fall course numbers will be sent to you before orientation this summer, so you can share these with your advisor and get them on your schedule.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

**Start with Campus Housing!** Students interested in applying to a Living and Learning Community can do so only after they have completed their online housing contract. Upon completing the housing contract, students can access the Living and Learning Community Application on the housing website. The LLC Application will be available starting March 17, 2014.

Please submit the following information to Nissa Dahlin-Brown at Nissa@utk.edu or Lisa Dicker at ldicker@utk.edu as soon as possible. We will accept applications until the BCLLC is full. You may also fax it to 865.974.8777. Don’t delay, as space is limited! Don’t miss this exceptional opportunity to get engaged and make a difference!
Submit applications that are type written or completed in blue or black ink only. Please do not use pencil!

Full Name: ____________________________________________  Circle your gender (Optional):  Male  Female

High School: ____________________________________________  Current GPA: _____________ on a scale of _____________

Home Phone Number: ____________________________________  Mobile or Other Phone Number: __________________________

Date of Birth: ____________________________________________  College Major (academic interest): _______________________

Your Mailing Address: ____________________________________  City/State/Zip: __________________________

UTK Email Address: ______________________________________  Student ID #: __________________________

Circle your ethnicity (Optional): White  Black/African-American  Asian-American  Latino/Hispanic  Other

**NOTE: Participation in the Baker Center Learning Community requires enrollment in a BCPP course in both the fall and the spring terms and 1 additional public policy course in the spring.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Please attach a brief resume, transcript and answer the following questions (combined total of 1,000 words max.) and include with the Basic Information above.

1. In your own words, what does it mean to be a “good citizen”?
2. What does public policy mean to you?
3. What do you want to get out of your learning community experience; what will you offer in return?
4. Why are you coming to college and what do you see for your future?
5. Why do you want to be a part of the Baker Center Living and Learning Community

Thanks for your interest in the Baker Center Living and Learning Community!

For additional information regarding the Baker Center Living and Learning Community, please contact Nissa Dahlin-Brown @ Nissa@utk.edu or 865.974.8681

For additional housing information, please contact Holly Rodden at 865-974-9998 or by email at hrodden@utk.edu.